

THE
MONTHLY



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HAWAIIAN HOLIDAY

We visited the Hawaiian Islands this Spring from April 25 to May 16. Our trip was so planned that we were in Honolulu on April 28 and May 12 for field trips of the Hawaii Audubon Society. The field trip on April 28 was primarily for water birds and was to the southeastern part of Oahu, including Kuapa and Kaelepulu Ponds; Manana Island was inspected by 30x telescope from the mainland. The May 12 trip was to Pa Lehua, a peak in the southern Waianae Mountains. The Waianaes are the highest mountains on Oahu (4000 ft.) and occupy the western part of the island. The hike to Pa Lehua was along the crest of a knife-edge ridge and was probably the most rugged Audubon Society walk I've ever been on. We visited Molokai on April 30, Lanai briefly on the same day, Maui April 30—May 3, Hawaii May 3-8, and Kauai May 8-11. Travel on these islands was entirely by U-drive automobile, and all inter-island travel was by plane.

The most recent publication on the birds of the islands is "Birds of Hawaii," by George C. Munro (1944), which is out of print but was available in Honolulu, although rather hard to find in the States. The Hawaii Audubon Society in 1954 published a field card of the birds of the islands (Robert L. Pyle, compiler), which gives much valuable information on which birds can be found on what islands, with their relative abundance.

We found birds on the islands to be considerably more numerous than anticipated, but the number of species was rather small—44 in all being recorded, including 20 introduced species. The highest total in any one day was 24, the lowest 7, with the average being 13. New life birds listed, according to Munro's nomenclature, were 23. In Waikiki the land birds seen were all introduced species. The native land birds inhabit the remnants of the original forests, where in places such as Kokee Park on Kauai they occur in considerable numbers. At least 11 species of the native land birds are believed to be extinct. This is somewhat uncertain due to the denseness of the forests, especially on the windward side of the islands, the very rugged character of many of the mountains, and the scarcity of observers on islands other than Oahu. Birds are generally quite scarce along the coasts except near a few

breeding colonies. No gulls, pelicans, or cormorants were seen; the commonest birds seen just offshore were White-tailed Tropic Birds and Greater Man-o'-War Birds.

Native Land Birds. The Hawaiian Hawk (*Buteo solitarius*) was seen twice on Hawaii, the only island on which it occurs. Short-eared Owls were seen on all islands, usually flying along the face of cliffs. The Elepaio, Apapane and Amakihi were the commoner native passerines; the Anianiau was seen only on Kauai; one Iiwi was seen at Bird Park on Hawaii. The Elepaio belongs to the family Muscicapidae (Old World Flycatchers); the others belong to the Drepanididae, or Hawaiian Honey-creepers.

Sea Birds. One of the highlights of the trip was the visit to the Kilauea lighthouse on Kauai, where a considerable number of Red-footed Boobies were nesting and could be approached to within a few feet. Greater Man-o'-War Birds flew over frequently, and two Wedge-tailed Shearwaters were seen. White-tailed Tropic Birds were seen occasionally along the sea cliffs; several were flying within the crater of Halemaumau on Hawaii. They were common on Kauai, especially along cliffs near Haena, in Waimea Canyon, and at Kalalau Lookout near Kokee Park. Flying over or near Manana Island off Oahu were Red-footed Boobies, Sooty Terns, and Common Noddies.

Endemic Water Birds. These included 3 species commonly found in the States—the Coot, Common (Florida) Gallinule, and Black-crowned Night Heron. The Hawaiian Stilt, seen at Kaelepulu Pond on Oahu, at the refuge near Kahului on Maui, and near Hanalei on Kauai, closely resembles the Black-necked Stilt, while the Hawaiian Duck, two of which were seen near Hanalei, resembles the Black Duck.

Migratory Water Birds. Golden Plovers were abundant in Waikiki when we first arrived, on golf courses and polo fields, but had all disappeared when we returned from our outer island tour. Wandering Tattlers were fairly common, with Sanderlings and Ruddy Turnstones being a bit scarcer. Shovelers were common when we first arrived. One Green-winged Teal was seen.

Introduced Species. In settled areas generally birds were common and included the House Sparrow, House Finch (U.S.A.), Mynah (India), Cardinal (U.S.A.), Rice-bird (an attractive smaller relative of the House Sparrow), and White-eye. The latter is very widely distributed, even in the forests. It resembles a vireo in appearance and its song reminded me of a Lazuli Bunting. It is a native of Japan and belongs to the White-eye family (Zosteropidae). Three doves were common—the Rock Dove, Chinese Spotted Dove (the same species as found near Los Angeles), and the Barred Dove (Australia). The latter is a very tame small dove about the size of an Inca Dove. The Brazilian Cardinal, also very tame, was seen only in Honolulu. A few Mockingbirds were seen; Western Meadowlarks were common on grasslands on Kauai. Sky-larks were seen and heard singing aloft in dry grasslands on Molokai, Maui and Hawaii, especially on the road to the summit of Haleakala on Maui. Two members of the Timellidae, or Babbling Thrush family, were found. The Chinese Thrush, which looked much like a Brown Towhee, was fairly com-

mon on Kauai, even in towns. The Red-billed Leiothrix, a very beautiful bird, was rather common in wet brushy or wooded areas, such as along Tantalus Drive in Honolulu or the Iao Valley on Maui. The Japanese Bush Warbler is found only in the relatively dry Waianae Mountains of Oahu, where it was heard many times but never seen. Introduced game species included the California Quail (one on Maui), Ring-necked Pheasant, and Green Pheasant (seen only at Bird Park near Kilauea Crater on Hawaii; it has a distinctive higher-pitched crow than the Ring-neck). And finally the ubiquitous Mallard.

The above species number somewhat less than half of the 94 species, not including those believed extinct, which are listed on the field card of the Hawaii Audubon Society.

— A. LAURENCE CURL.

AUGUST TRIP TO FARALLON ISLANDS

The boat trip to the Farallon Islands and vicinity took place on August 24th with approximately 26 persons making the trip.. The weather was overcast with a medium swell and visibility was quite good except for a period of low fog between the lightship and the S.E. Farallon in the morning.

No very unusual birds were seen but a Black-vented Shearwater flew by with some Sooty Shearwaters giving opportunity for size comparison which is seldom available. Three Black-footed Albatross fed on oil-soaked cereal and suet within a few yards of the Rowland R., Sr., and Pink-footed Shearwaters were very common; groups of 2 to 5 were constantly crossing the bow and although some of the sightings may have been repetitions, upwards of one hundred must have been seen.

No New Zealand Shearwaters were seen although Pough's new Audubon Western Bird Guide states they occur off the coast from July to November.

No Jaegers were seen until the Rowland R., Sr. was almost back inside the Berkeley Yacht Harbor, when one was seen flying west. As it was moulting or in immature plumage it was impossible to identify, but on the basis of size and probable occurrence, it was tentatively listed as most likely a Parasitic.

Several Puffins were observed flying and one obliging bird sat on the water while the boat circled it at close range enabling all on board to get a most satisfying look at the pelagic clown.

Cassin Auklets were extremely common on the south side of the Island.

The following 28 species were seen: Black-footed Albatross; Sooty Shearwater; Black-vented Shearwater; Pink-footed Shearwater; Pacific Fulmar; Brown Pelican; Brandt's Cormorant; Pelagic Cormorant; Mallard; Pintail; Black Oystercatcher; Black Turnstone; Wandering Tattler; Dowitcher; Red Phalarope; Northern Phalarope; Jaeger (Parasitic?); Western Gull; California Gull; Bonaparte's Gull; Heermann's Gull; Forster's Tern; Calif. Murre; Pigeon Guillemot; Cassin's Auklet; Tufted Puffin; Raven; Loggerhead Shrike.

— HARRY ADAMSON, *Leader and Historian*.

NEW MEMBERS

We welcome the following new members to the Golden Gate Audubon Society: from Alameda, Mrs. Melita Hutt Doty; from Benicia, Mr. Camm Swift; from Berkeley, Mr. & Mrs. P. H. Aldrich, Mr. & Mrs. T. M. Atkinson, Mr. Edward J. Harman, Mrs. C. V. Hayes, Mr. Gustav E. Magnuson, Miss Alice McKeen, Miss Ann Middleton, Mr. & Mrs. W. E. Newlon, Miss Catherine Price and Miss Mabel G. Toner; from Concord, Miss Dorothy Dodge; from El Cerrito, Mr. & Mrs. Ernst Stolz and Mr. Robert E. Lange; from Oakland, Mr. John E. Davisson, Miss Muriel Newberry, Mrs. Claire N. Perry and Miss Vivian Shields; from Piedmont, Miss Helen M. Carlin, Mrs. Frances Ellen Faligatter, and Mrs. Lucile E. Smith; from San Francisco, Mrs. Hubert Fry, Miss Mildred A. Martin, Miss Mollie Rosen, Mrs. Herbert Shaffer, Mrs. Claire G. Smith, Miss Edith Van Orden and Mrs. Louise Weber; from South San Francisco, Mr. & Mrs. A. K. Conragan; from San Leandro, Mrs. Helen Blakeley, Mrs. Robert Kolemman and Mr. Jack L. Mann.

The membership count is now 909.

— JEAN L. DUNHAM, M.D., *Membership Chairman.*

CURRENT BOOKS AVAILABLE

From the National Audubon Society we have received a selected list of current books (1957) available at the Pacific Coast Office, 2426 Bancroft Way, Berkeley:

For the teacher and youth leader (elementary through intermediate):

Experiences with Living Things (Vessel and Applegarth) (paper), \$3.50

How to Stimulate Your Science Program (Vessel and Wong) (paper),
\$1.00

California Wildlife Regions (Vinson Brown) *Revised edition* (paper),
\$2.00

For the special interest:

An Illustrated Guide to Fossil Collecting (Richard Casanova) (paper),
\$1.50

For the young naturalist:

The Rainbow Book of Nature (Donald Culross Peattie), \$4.95

New additions to nature series:

Secrets of Life (Disney) (True Life Adventures series), \$2.95

Weather (Zim) (Golden Nature series), \$1.00

Available paperbacks:

Web of Life (Storer), 35¢

How to Know Rocks and Minerals (Pearl), 50¢

The Silent World (Cousteau), 35¢

THE OCCURRENCE OF AN EMPEROR GOOSE IN SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY

On February 14, 1957, a single Emperor Goose (*Philacte canagica*) was seen resting in a plowed sugar beet field with a large flock of White-fronted Geese (*Anser albifrons*) on Stanton Island, San Joaquin County, California. The bird was observed at 12 noon and again at 1 p.m. in good light at approximately 100 yards with 6 x 30 binoculars. It was viewed for over 15 minutes by myself and Jack C. Bechtel of the California Department of Fish and Game.

—VERNAL L. YADON, *Curator, Museum of
Natural History, Pacific Grove, Calif.*

OCTOBER MEETING

The 480th regular meeting of the Golden Gate Audubon Society will be held on Thursday, October 10th, at 7:30 p.m. in the Assembly Room of the Main Library in San Francisco, Larkin Street at McAllister (No. 5 bus).

Mr. Ivan Barker, head of the Mathematics Department at Lowell High School, will give an illustrated talk on Hummingbirds. Starting from an amazingly tame one in his back yard, Mr. Barker has extended his interest into the infinite variety of this species. Some are *most* spectacular. An interesting evening is promised. Come and bring a friend.

—BONNIE SMITH, *Program Chairman.*

Note: A no-host dinner at the Coffee Shop of the Whitcomb Hotel (Market Street near the Library) will precede the meeting at 6 p.m. Moderate prices. Everyone invited.

FIELD TRIPS FOR OCTOBER

Sunday, October 13th, OWLING AND DAWN BIRDING ON UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA CAMPUS. This is an unusual but very interesting and exciting type of birding. It will whet the ability to recognize birds by sound as well as by sight. The brave, sleepy group will assemble at the West Gate of the campus (head of University Avenue) at 4:30 a.m. From this point we will explore until around 8 or 9 a.m. If enough members of the group are interested, it might be a fitting climax to such an invigorating morning to have a group breakfast at some nearby restaurant, where we can compare notes. Bring warm clothing, binoculars, telescopes, and interested friends. Leader, Alan Craig, AS 3-9700 (Berkeley).

Saturday, October 26th, GOLDEN GATE PARK AND SAN FRANCISCO SHORE. The different habitat offered on this field trip is sure to produce an interesting and varied group of birds. This same trip last year turned up 48 colorful species and was enjoyed by about 50 members and guests, who split up into groups after lunch, some visiting the Planetarium, others the Arboretum, etc.. Meet at 9:00 a.m. at 43rd and Fulton Streets, near the Chain-of-Lakes in Golden Gate Park. Bring lunch, binoculars, telescopes, and interested friends. Leader, Florence Plymell, PR 6-1208 (S.F.).

—LEE STALLCUP, *Field Trips Chairman*.

WATERFOWL REFUGES FIELD TRIP

On the weekend of November 9 and 10 there will be a joint field trip of the Golden Gate and Mt. Diablo Audubon Societies. Those wishing to make the overnight trip should make reservations at once at one of the motels or hotels in or near Willows, such as the Willows Motel. This year the route will be reversed — Saturday we will meet at 10 a.m. at the Grey Lodge State Waterfowl Refuge southwest of Gridley and after touring the refuge drive west to Willows for the night. To reach the Grey Lodge Refuge from Gridley drive west on Colusa road approximately 4 miles, then south on Pennington road to sign on right directing traffic to the refuge. It can also be reached from 99E by turning west at Live Oak and driving until the Sutter Buttes are reached, then turn north, but local directions are advisable in this case.

Sunday morning at 9:30 we will meet at the Sacramento Federal Waterfowl Refuge some 7 miles south of Willows on Route 99W.

Additional information in the November Gull.

—HARRY ADAMSON, *Leader*, ATlantic 3-2164

GOLDEN GATE AUDUBON SOCIETY, INC.

Established January 25, 1917

A Branch of the National Audubon Society since 1948

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Claims for missing numbers of THE GULL should be sent to the Distribution Chairman. Changes of address should be sent to the Membership Chairman.

Monthly meetings second Thursday, 7:30 p.m. Joint Membership, Local and National, \$5.00 per year, includes AUDUBON MAGAZINE and THE GULL. Subscription to THE GULL separately, \$1.00 per year.

Visit the Pacific Coast Office of the NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY — 2426 Bancroft Way
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